Censor board to check vulgarity in music channels

†588. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for setting up of a Censor Board to have a check on vulgar music videos being shown on television channels every day in abundance;

(b) if so, the deails thereof; and

(c) if not, the effective steps Government are going to take to have a check on vulgar music videos?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Under the provisions of Cinematograph Act 1952, all Music Videos/ Music Albums are to be certified by the Central Board of Films Certification (CBFC). It is the responsibility of TV Channels to see whether the particular version of the Music Video/Music Album, that is slated for telecast, has been certified by the CBFC. Programme Code for TV Channels, transmitted/retransmitted through Cable Network, also stipulates that no programme should be carried on the Cable Service which contravenes the provisions of the Cinematograph Act 1952 and which is not sutiable for unrestricted public exhibition. All the TV Channels have recently been asked by the Government to strictly adhere to the said provisions. Also Government had constituted Inter-Ministerial Committee under Section 20 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 to look into violations of the Programme Code. Action for violation can also be taken by "Authorised officers" notified under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995.

Use of digital storage system

589. SHRI MURLI DEORA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan failed to ensure proper use of digital storage system during the year 2001-02 and if so, the reasons therefor;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the amount spent in purchasing these equipments and the over payment made, if any;

(c) whether Doordarshan allowed additional free commercial time with banking facility on national channels against programmes telecast on Doordarshan International channel; and

(d) the loss caused as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d) The C&AG in Paragraph 5.1. of its Report No.4 of 2003 (Civil) has pointed out Doordarshan's failure to ensure proper use of digital storage system that resulted in wasteful expenditure of Rs.5.40 crore on its purchase besides over payment of Rs. 2.40 crore. The C&AG in Para 5.2 of the said report has also pointed out that Doordarshan's decision to allow additional Free Commercial Time with banking facility on National Channel against programmes telecast on Doordarshan International Channel resulted in loss of Rs.2.31.

Entertainment sector

590. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some major changes are contemplated for entertainment sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) whether the two Committees appointed for the purpose have since submitted their reports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d) The Government has taken several initiatives to bring about changes in the entertainment sector in the interest of the overall development of this sector. Access to institutional and bank financing has been facilitated for the entertainment industry, including films, Foreign Direct Investment policy for the film sector has been liberalized and international visibility has been afforded to Indian films by participation in global markets.